

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed September 7, 2004. Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made to further limit the independent claim in response to the final Office Action. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, a Terminal Disclaimer is being filed in order to expedite prosecution. No claims were amended.

Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under Obviousness-Type Double-Patenting:

Claims 16-17, 19 and 21-25 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,616,760 to Kitano et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,383,948 to Kitano et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,673,155 to Nagashima et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants are submitting a Terminal Disclaimer executed by Applicants' Representative, mootting this rejection.

Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

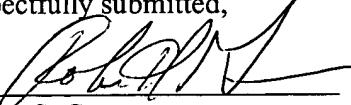
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, claims 16-25 are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of these amendments and remarks is courteously solicited. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that would place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. KPO-164/DIV from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: November 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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